



TELL TALES

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary East District - Southern Region Flotilla 26-2 Lake Wylie

8 September Flotilla Meeting

Flotilla Staff Officers

Mark Briggs, FC

Beverly Butlin, VFC, CS,
MT, PA, PV

David Ray, IPFC, HR

Patrick Hughes, CM

Steve Whittaker, FN, IS

Mike Silva, MA

Mark Wilson, MS

Ray Webber, NS

Tom Edwards, PB

Rick Croasdale, PE

Bob Starnes, SR

David Wascher, OP, RS

Adam DeLuca, VE

Held at 1000 Cabela's Drive, with approximately 20 in attendance and online. Hopefully, we will be moving to Camp Thunder YMCA in the near future! See David Ray's report below. Steve Whittaker was in an accident on the way to the meeting so he wasn't able to attend.

Warning; AUXDATA II is now offline

By now everyone should be aware AUXDATA II is in a temporary shut down. Until the situation is solved, imperative that all entries are written down or recorded in your own hand and do not depend on AUXDATA II until we are notified. For more information, check your 05 September 2025 email from Chief Director's All Auxiliaries Message (CHDIRAX.)

Beverly Butlin has nicely downloaded and emailed us our past entries as of the morning of 9 September 2025. Make sure you make copies of everything submitted after that date. We can not log in just keep your records until everything is figured out.

Dues are Due

Mark Briggs asks for your dues. Dues must be paid to Steve Whittaker by 1 October 2025 or you will get a final note from Mark. As of 1 November 2025, he needs to start the dis-enrollment procedure.

Vessel Safety Check Brochure

The Vessel Safety Check brochure has been removed from inventory. We don't know if it will be replaced. In the meantime, Mark Briggs has a pdf of one we can use. Since the Vessel Safety Check brochure has been removed from inventory, members need to go up the COLM to verify if we are still allowed to use the brochure first. It may have been removed for a reason.

Personal Flotation Devices

Dave Wascher reminds us that PFDs are now inspected two times a year. Three of us are overdue now and several are due next month. I know, I'm due.

Halloween Fun

Beverly is looking for volunteers to help out with a public affairs event 17 October 2025 at the Joshua Murray Boating, Safety and Awareness Initiative at Blythe Landing. The "Haunted Cove" at Joshua Murray Boating Safety, Education, and Awareness Initiative at Blythe Landing is a fun time for kids and families, sponsored by the Cornelius Police Department. No vessel inspections since this is mainly a Public Affairs event. No certifications required, just come and help out.

Everbridge Check

In the event of an emergency-especially during hurricane season- you will receive a safety message check from Coast Guard Auxiliary by text, phone or email. They want to check on your safety. You must respond using at least one of these methods within the designated time allowed. If you do not reply within the required timeframe, a search may be initiated to verify your safety. You will receive advance notice to watch for this communication.

Help Needed

Ziad "Z" Nazif, DCDR and David Ray expressed that volunteers are needed to fill the succession of flotilla and division officers. Right now our flotilla needs a person with leadership training to volunteer for vice flotilla commander along with several staff officer positions. Division staff officers

positions need to be filled as well. Please consider stepping up. There are many past officers willing to help with the transition.

Awards

Photos by Larry Hoover

Monday night's meeting had several substantial awards presented by Ziad "Z" Nazif (Photo on Right)!



Beverly Butlin (photo on left) received her Coast Guard Sustained Auxiliary Service Award for over 1500 hours service. The exceptional part was this was the second time she received this award!



Mark Briggs, David Ray and Beverly Butlin, all received the Century Club Award for individually completing 100 or more vessel checks or program visits during Fiscal Year 2024. David Ray was unable to attend .



Mark Briggs

Beverly Butlin



YMCA Memoranda of Understanding

David Ray reports that the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding is near which means Camp Thunderbird is allowing us a space for meetings and Boat America classes. Eventually a marine radio station for very high frequency (VHF) channels on Lake Wylie will be setup. With the station on Lake Norman, continuous coverage will be provided for both lakes.

Social Dinner

One of the best parts of volunteering with the Auxiliary is fellowship. 24 August we had one of these special events at an Italian pizza restaurant near the Buster Boyd bridge in Lake Wylie.



The turnout was the largest in recent memory with lots of tale swapping, pictures sharing, and catching up for families in general. Look for an email from Georgia Axiotis for our 28 September event!

Lake Wylie Boat Drills

17 August 2025 LAKE WYLIE, North Carolina

Report and photos by Mark Briggs

Pursuing technical mastery of our seamanship and rescue skills, the Lake Wylie and Davidson Flotillas conducted multiple two-boat towing drills 17 August 2025 near Buster Boyd Landing. Despite the intense



summer heat, the crews rose to the challenge and supported one another through teamwork, and vigilance. The training enhanced proficiency, cooperation, competency, and endurance-producing clear, tangible



gains for both flotillas. Crew in attendance were David Wascher, Mark Briggs, Ray Webber, Rick Croasdale, from 26-2 and Darrin Sanchez, 26-3.

Boat America Class

Reported and photos by Beverly Butlin

23 August 2025

Fort Mill, South Carolina



Seven adults joined the Boat America class on Saturday at 1000 Cabela's Drive in Fort Mill. Claire Northrup, 26-3, had the pleasure of teaching Chapter 1, the first time teaching this course. Claire was recently accepted at the U.S. Coast



Guard Academy. She did an excellent job and we are proud of her dedication. She was observed by Rick Croasdale, and joined by veteran teachers, David Ray, and Beverly Butlin. All attendees passed and participated in a great day of learning.

K4K Kayaking for Kids

6 September 2025 Lake Wylie, South Carolina

Reported by Mark Briggs

Photos by Mark Briggs, Ray Webber and Rick Croasdale

Kayaking for Kids is an annual event held at the Buster Boyd boat ramp. This event was a chance for kids to



learn about kayaking and getting out on the water. Our flotilla made it a time for safety, public affairs and vessel checks. Adam DeLuca, Rick Teufel and Mark Briggs worked public affairs on the shore and performed paddle craft checks and a lot of public affairs. As usual, Mark Briggs was on the prowl for new members and might have found one. The water was patrolled by David Wascher in his operational facility, his personal watercraft with Darrin Sanchez and Rick Croasdale on Darrin's boat. David Wascher completed his three year check ride with Jim Loftin, VFC, 26-1 observing.



Following the K4K event the team our facilities were requested by local law enforcement and emergency medical service, LE/EMS, to aid in the search for a missing person in the water. As such, our facilities ran a full eight hour patrol before regulation required them to stand down. The team returned Sunday as well. Local LE/EMS were most appreciative for the assist. USCG sector NC was notified.



David Webber was also on scene, but in the capacity as a commissioner of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission and not as an Auxiliarist.



If it is not in Written Down, it didn't happen!

Calendar

Make sure you check our website for an up-to-date look at all events. Beverly Butlin, VFC, and Mark Briggs, FC, work hard at keeping the calendar current. There are Boat America classes the fourth Saturday of every month and many Vessel Safety Checks and Public Affairs events listed. It is impossible for me to list all the dates together, so please check the public and members-only areas on our website for current information!

Look for the social dinner location in your email! This month is 28 September 2025 at 17:30! If your birthday is September or October, you get to help choose the restaurant!

Flotilla Calendar

Edited by Tom Edwards, FSO-PB